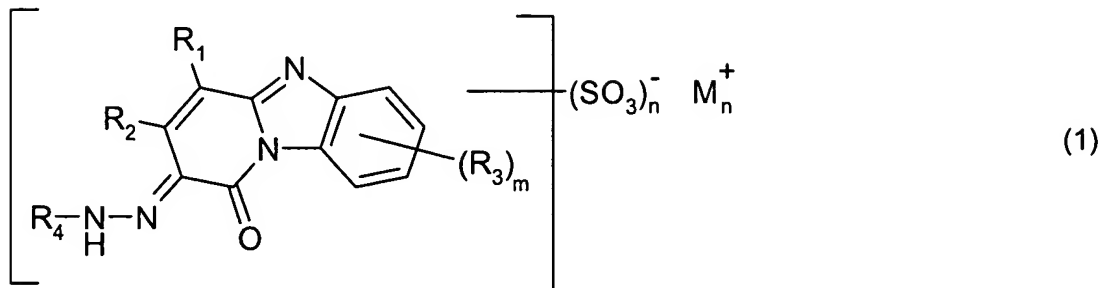


In the Claims:

1. **(original):** An azo dye of formula



wherein

R₁ is -CN, -COOR₅, -CONR₆R₇ or a heterocyclic ring, R₂ is unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted aryl, -CF₃, -COOR₅, -CONR₆R₇ or -COR₅, R₃ is hydrogen, -SO₃M, alkyl, alkoxy, alkylcarbonyl, -NO₂ or halogen, R₄ is substituted aryl, substituted heteroaryl or an aryl-N=N-aryl radical, wherein one or both of the aryl radicals in aryl-N=N-aryl is/are unsubstituted or substituted, or a radical heteroaryl-N=N-heteroaryl, wherein one or both of the heteroaryl radicals in heteroaryl-N=N-heteroaryl is/are unsubstituted or substituted, R₅ is hydrogen, alkyl or unsubstituted or substituted aryl, R₆ is hydrogen, alkyl or unsubstituted or substituted aryl, R₇ is hydrogen, alkyl or unsubstituted or substituted aryl, M⁺ is a cation, n is a number 1, 2 or 3 and m is a number 1, 2 or 3.

2. **(original):** An azo dye according to claim 1, wherein R₁ is -CN or -CONH₂.

3. **(currently amended):** An azo dye according to either claim 1, ~~or claim 2,~~ wherein R₂ is methyl, isopropyl, -CF₃, phenyl or p-methoxyphenyl.

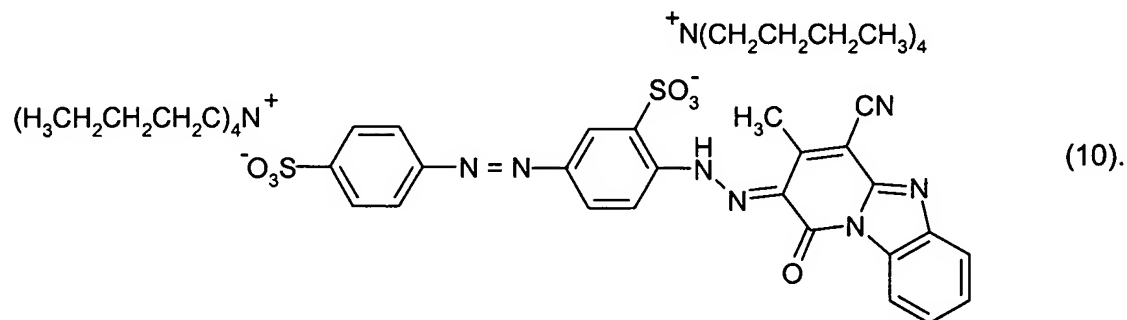
4. **(currently amended):** An azo dye according to ~~any one of claim~~ ^{[[s]]} 1, ~~to 3,~~ wherein R₃ is hydrogen, chlorine or -SO₃M.

5. **(currently amended):** An azo dye according to ~~any one of claim~~ ^{[[s]]} 1, ~~to 4,~~ wherein R₄ is phenyl substituted by methyl and/or by methoxy and/or by -NO₂ and/or by -CF₃ and/or one or more times by -SO₃M, or is phenyl-N=N-phenyl, wherein one of the phenyl radicals or both phenyl radicals independently of one another is/are unsubstituted or substituted as indicated above.

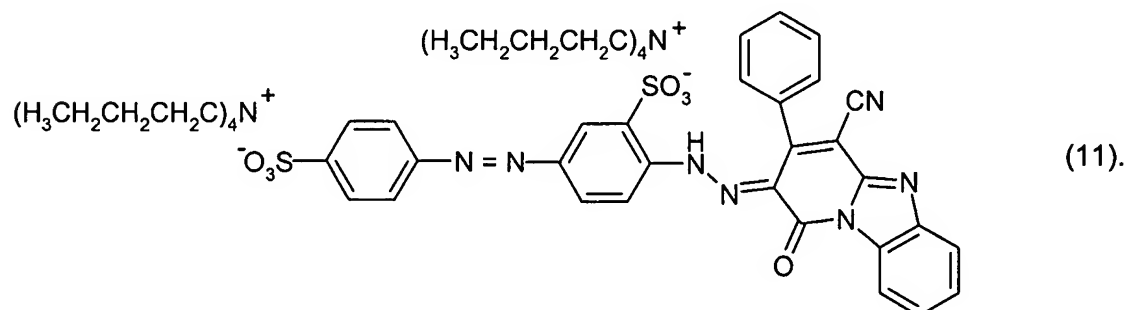
6. (currently amended): An azo dye according to any one of claims 1, to 3, wherein R_4 is naphthyl substituted one or more times by $-\text{SO}_3\text{M}$.

7. (currently amended): An azo dye according to any one of claims 1, to 6, wherein the cation M^+ is Primene 81, $\text{N}^+[(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{CH}_3]_4$, $\text{N}^+(\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{33})(\text{CH}_3)_3$ or $\text{N}^+(\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{21})_2(\text{CH}_3)_2$.

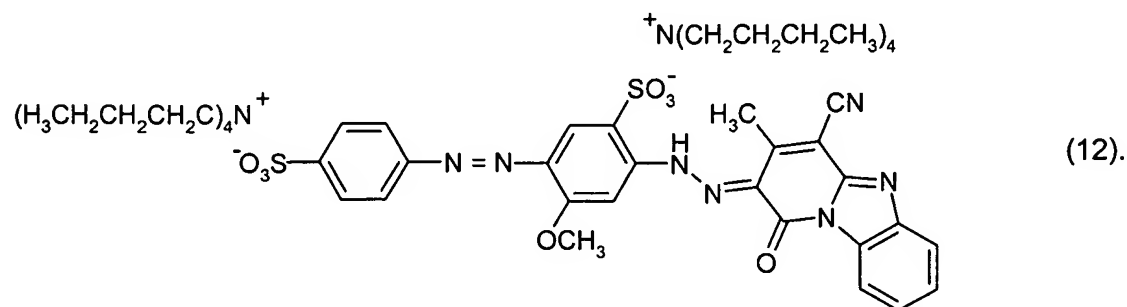
8. (original): An azo dye according to claim 1 of formula



9. (original): An azo dye according to claim 1 of formula



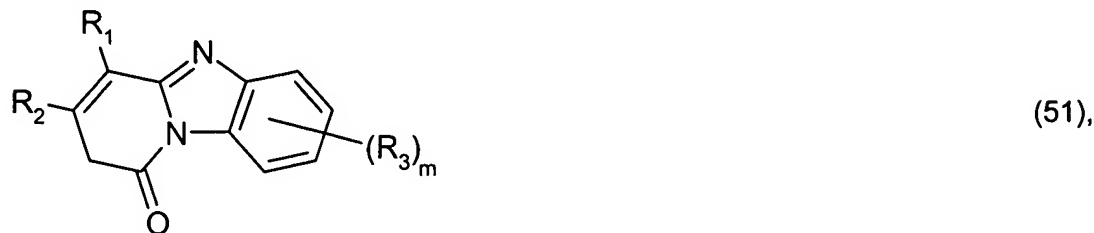
10. (original): An azo dye according to claim 1 of formula



11. (original): A process for the preparation of an azo dye of formula (1) according to claim 1, in which a compound of formula



is diazotised and coupled to a coupling component of formula



wherein R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 and m are as defined for formula (1), the diazo component and/or the coupling component containing at least one sulfo group, which is subsequently neutralised with a suitable base containing the cation M^+ .

12. (original): A process for the production of coloured plastics or polymeric colour particles, in which one or more azo dyes of formula (1) according to claim 1 is/are incorporated into those materials.

13 (cancelled)

14. (original): The coloured plastics or polymeric colour particles according to claim 12.

15. (original): An aqueous wood stain comprising an azo dye of formula (1) according to claim 1.

16. (original): A process for colouring wood, in which an aqueous wood stain according to claim 15 is used.

17. (cancelled):

18. (original): Wood coloured according to claim 16.

19. (original): A purely solvent-containing wood stain comprising an azo dye of formula (1) according to claim 1.

20. (original): A process for colouring wood, in which a purely solvent-containing wood stain according to claim 19 is used.

21. (cancelled)

22. (original): Wood coloured according to claim 20.

23. (currently amended): A process for dyeing or printing semi-synthetic or synthetic hydrophobic fibre material, ~~especially textile material,~~ in which one or more azo dyes according to claim 1 is/are applied to the mentioned material or incorporated therein.

24. (currently amended): A process according to claim 23, in which the hydrophobic material, ~~especially is~~ textile material, ~~consists of polyester fibres.~~

25. (original): Material dyed or printed according to claim 23.

26. (new): A process according to claim 23, in which the hydrophobic material consists of polyester fibres.